

On August 11, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) clarified their guidelines for isolation and quarantine periods for the general public. Based on these updated recommendations, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is updating guidance for individuals infected with and exposed to COVID-19. This guidance provides clarification on quarantine guidance. This guidance applies to the general population in the community setting. This guidance does NOT apply to healthcare workers or healthcare settings.

COVID 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Does the Portage Area School District require masking for students?**
 - No, unless the student tests positive for COVID 19. The student must wear a mask for 5 days after returning to school.
 - Individuals exposed to COVID -19 should wear a high-quality mask for 10 days.
- **Will the school be offering COVID -19 testing on site like last year?**
 - No testing will be done at the school.
- **Will PASD accept home tests?**
 - Yes, however those days count towards the 10 parental excuses.
- **Will PASD accept PCR/rapid test from your medical provider?**
 - Yes, and these will be excused as medical evidence absences and will not count towards the 10 parental excuses.
- **I was exposed to someone with COVID-19; do I need to quarantine?**
 - Quarantining at home is no longer necessary
 - You should wear a high-quality **mask** for 10 days after the exposure occurs (day 0 (zero) is the day the exposure occurred) whenever you are around others inside their home or indoors in public.
- **What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19?**
 - Inform the school and stay home for at least 5 days (day 0 is the test day) and return wearing a mask for 5 days.
 - If you have questions about more guidance, please call your local health department or 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or visit <https://www.cdc.gov>.
- **Do I need to have a negative COVID-19 test to return to school?**
 - NO, as long as you are symptom free for 24 hours.
- **IF I have tested positive and have decided I do not want to wear a mask, can I return to school on day 6?**
 - NO, you cannot. You will be asked to mask for 5 days after a positive test. You are able to return on **day 11 without** a mask. These days will be marked –parental excused unless medical documentation is obtained.
- **Will I be able to access TEAMS for online learning, IF I am POSITIVE for COVID-19?**
 - Yes, if you are in Grades 7-12 and can show a medical note stating you have COVID 19 from your health care provider.
 - No, if you are in Grades K-6. Your student will receive make-up work which will be on the table in the gym lobby.